

• C o u n t e r p o i s e •

The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Volume XLVIII

April 2008

Number 4



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon meets every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the First Lutheran Church of El Cajon. The address is 867 South Lincoln Ave. Next meeting: April 10, 2008 7:00 pm

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All Official written communication is to be submitted to:

A.R.C.E.C. P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

The Counterpoise is a publication of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). It is published once monthly and contributions are accepted from officers and members of the club. We also encourage input from members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Opinions expressed are solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). Articles may be submitted either by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Paul Rios at:

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net or by post
1237 Victor Ave #4, El Cajon, CA 92021

The Deadline is Sunday after the General Meeting.

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Web Site: <http://www.wa6bgs.org>

Counterpoise E-Mail address

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net

Just got to find
A spot for
one more Antenna!



Speaker: Steve Early AD6VI
Activity: Keys for Del Mar Fair

2008 Officers

President	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Vice-President	KO4QT	Steve Weed	733-2320
Secretary	N6ERD	Dan Severance	449-8526
Treasurer	KG6JCW	Mike "Stogie" Panger	263-4439

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Affiliated Clubs	AE6AV	Larry Plummer	460-1818
Instructor	AE6QW	Gordon Shackelford	561-6323
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Net Manager	KG6TDP	Mike Oberbauer	444-9090
Public Service	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
	KF6KE	Richard West	462-2771

2008 Standing Committees

Bylaws	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Club Attire	K6PKS	Paul Schmidt	733-2284
Counterpoise Editor	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Education	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Elmer	WA6L	John Graf	368-7413
EOC H2O District	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Estate Sales	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Field Day	KO4QT	Steve Weed	733-2320
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Historian	OPEN		
Photographer	KI6EEL	Bridget Rios	
Post Mistress	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Prizes	AF6BC	Floyd Lang	697-8655
Public Relations	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
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Technical	W6RHV	Bob Boehme	448-4728
Ticket Lady	KI6EEK	Lisie Rios	
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WAMO	AE6CQ	Michael Martak	562-6477
Web Master	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Welcome	KI6JUD	Linda Weed	971-1535
Social Chair	KI6JUD	Linda Weed	971-1535

Staff and Writers

KC6QLS	Paul	Editor
KO4QT	Steve	Vice President
N6ERD	Dan	Meeting Minutes
KI6FIH	Tassy	HAM Spot Light
AE6CQ	Michael	WAMO
W5COM	Tom & Lisie	Jokes
N6NKJ	Rich	Amateur Radio at Large
WA6L	John	Down Below in EC
WA6MHZ	Pat	Crest Radio Museum
KI6EEL	Bridget	Photos

SANTEE DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET

10990 Woodside Ave., North
FOR INFORMATION, CALL 449-SWAP
Ham Radio, Computers, Electronics
ACRES & ACRES OF BARGAINS
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month
GATES OPEN 6:30 AM

From The President

Paul KC6QLS



First, I would like to take a moment to remember all of the silent keys and most recently Harv Hiller K6QK, Rod Dinkins AC6V and Norm Albright WB6OKO, all of whom were well liked and respected by the amateur radio community.

Thank you to Ed Felter AI6O and Dan Severance N6ERD for their PSK-31 presentation at our March meeting. It was very informative.

At our March meeting, the General Membership voted to amend our By Laws and change the Membership Dues due date to December 31st of each year, which is the way it used to be. This will make it easier for everyone to remember when their dues are due and also will make it easier to plan the budget as we will have all of the dues for the upcoming year at the time the budge is being planned.

Lastly, at both the March Board and General Membership Meetings, we discussed the possibilities and opportunities for Elmers in the ARCEC to put on fun and educational events, classes, and activities. If you would like to be an Elmer and get involved with putting on events, classes and activities, for the ARCEC and the amateur radio community, please contact our Elmer Chair John Graf WA6L directly at john@wa6l.com email.

73

Paul KC6QLS



AMATEUR RADIO

QLS

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

General Membership Meeting
13 March 2008



The meeting was opened by Paul, KC6QLS. The February meeting minutes were accepted with one change – the VP report should have stated that keys will be done in the April meeting, not the May meeting as published in the Counterpoise.

The Bylaws Amendment to change membership renewals to the same month for all was passed unanimously.

Rich, N6NKJ Reported that on April 12 9-3pm will be Wildland fire safety training at 5555 Aztec Drive in La Mesa - an LDS Church in the gym - no coffee, no smoking. You need to sign up in back or RSVP by April 5th if you wish to attend. E-mail N6NKJ (in Counterpoise under Public Service) if you want to come. You'll learn a lot about how to keep safe and keep your home safe.

Ed Sack, W3NRG - donated a 40M antenna for the silent auction.

Ed, AI6O, and Dan, N6ERD made a presentation on PSK-31 using 2M handhelds.

Board Report: WA6L submitted some proposals to shorten the meetings, and in addition to link the repeaters to increase usage. Paul, KC6QLS argued against most of the proposals but suggested possibly linking the 220 and 440 repeaters on a trial basis.

Counterpoise Report: Articles aren't getting in on time - in order to get it out in time we'll have to send them out without the column. We need volunteers for the ham spotlight

There is a sign in sheet for 4 hour booth at Del Mar fair - contact Ann Rios

Yuma Hamfest: those who attended met a lot of new people from San Diego - all were on the parking lot this year instead of all over the place.

Paul, K6PKS: The 26th running of the San Diego 100 Mile endurance run starts off on Buckmans' spring exit. Cut-off for people to be in is 13 hours, so volunteers can leave when the cut-off for each stop is reached. It's a way to obtain experience and practice conducting traffic. Contact Paul, (see in Counterpoise under attire). N6UWW and WB6BFG are in charge of organizing communications.

SURF Race: W6SST is coordinating communications but you can also contact Paul, K6PKS. It will be a 4-6 hour commitment for 50 mile run, from 6am Saturday morning until 1pm Sunday afternoon. Most people bring 2M mobiles, or portables. K6PKS has some extra radios/antennas for those who don't have their own equipment but would like to volunteer.

VP Report: Field Day, Paul and Steve went to Shrine camp and took pictures so you can see the dorms, cabins. Cabins 2 left 65/night. There are 3 dorm rooms available \$20/room/night with 3-4 people/room.

Field Day T-shirt Contest will be in May so submit your picture - 3 colors + white (4 total).

In April we will be building Morse Code Keys for the Del Mar fair. Also, Steve Early will give a 15 minute talk.

Affiliated Clubs: Mike, N6OPH as Convention Chairman paid Sheraton Four Points to reserve out place Sept. 17th, 2010. There will be a logo contest for the convention – since it's right next to Montgomery Field - it would be nice to tie in the Aeronautical Theme.. The first meeting for Convention Committee will be on the 22nd of May at Sheraton Four Points, it will be a dinner meeting and a tour of the facility by the hotel staff followed by dinner. The motion at SANDARC to buy General and Extra Class books was tabled as a lot of clubs were not present.

SANDARC is expanding into Imperial County and so they will be holding license exams in Imperial Valley. So far they have recruited 7 volunteer examiners and will have monthly exam sessions in the evening - dates to be determined.

****Continued Page 15

From The Vice President KO4QT Steve



I'd like to send out a big thank you to Dan-N6ERD and Ed-AI6O for giving us a demo on FM PSK at our last meeting and a belated thank you to John-WA6L for his presentation on contesting at our February meeting.

At our next meeting we will be making wooden "Keys" for our Club's "Kids Best" booth at the San Diego County Fair (Del Mar Fair). At our Kids Best booth, we'll have flyers and hopefully plenty of volunteers from the Club to talk to kids and their parents about Amateur Radio. The kids will be attaching wires, battery and buzzer to the keys we've made and then trying their hand at sending their name to us in Morse code.

Field Day is just 2 months away. I'll have a sign up sheet on the table at the meeting for those of you planning to attend. Please, if you're planning on being at Field Day site, I need you to sign the sheet so we know how much food to buy. Also, if you can help with load up/set up or tear down, there will be a separate sign up sheet for that. There are still 2 cabins, 3 dorm rooms (with multiple beds), and RV sites available. For reservations or if you can't be at the meeting to sign up, call me at: (619)733-2320 or email: ko4qt@hotmail.com I'll put you on the list.

73's and I'll see you at the April meeting

Steve KO4QT



WA6BGS Nets

Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Manger
Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Controller
Frito	N6WKB	Wide Open Nets
Ed Felter	AI6O	WAMO/D

WAMO NETS:

Wednesday and Saturday Nights
8:00 pm local time 7:30 "Checkins"

Tuesday Night Rag Chew net:
8:00 pm

Nets held on club repeaters

WA6BGS Repeaters

RX 147.420 (146.475) 107.2 PL

RX 224.080 – 107.2 PL

RX 445.900 – 107.2 PL

Don't miss it. All members welcome.

New WAMO/D Net

ARCEC, San Diego Digital VHF Net

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Day: Thurs. "Except 2nd Thurs. of the month"

Mode: PSK31

Frequency: 50.290 MHz. and a QSY to 144.144 MHz

This is an open net and all are invited. Early check-ins will be taken. Hope to see you on the waterfall!

WAMO means Worked All Members Only. The purpose of WAMO is to encourage people to people communication between club members and to publicize the name of the club among fellow amateurs.


Calendar of Events April 2008

April	1:	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
April	3:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz
April	5:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
April	5:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
April	10:	General Meeting, 7:00 pm
April	17:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz
April	18:	Counterpoise Dead Line
April	19:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
April	19:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
April	24:	SDDVHF PSK Net 8 PM 20.290 MHz

Upcoming Event Dates

Field Day 2008, Del Mar Fair, Open House FS,
Mother Goose Parade

LAKE SIDE MUFFLER & WELDING
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR



GARY YATES
OWNER

12461 WOODSIDE AVE.
LAKE SIDE, CA 92040

(619) 561-3202



Tom Mc Duffie KM6K, Manager
5375 Kearny Villa Road
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 560-4900 or 1-800-854-6046

The Counterpoise is also online in FULL COLOR. Check it out and the club's website at: www.wa6bgs.org

Get your advanced copy by e-mail. I will send it out in .PDF format the night it goes to print. E-mail me and let me know that you would like a copy. Size of file may be up to 1.5 mb at times.

Change of Address

Moving?

Do not miss an issue of the Counterpoise. Fill out the Change of address form below.

Call _____ WAMO# _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
New Address:
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to Membership Chairperson:
A.R.C.E.C./ P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

ARCEC Membership Application

1. Amateur Call Sign	2. Class of License
3. First Name	4. Last Name
5. Street Address	6. City, State, Zip+4
7. Home Phone	8. Work Phone
May we list: Y N	
9. DOB	10. e-mail
11. ARRL Member Yes no	12. ARES Member Yes No
13. RACES Member Yes No	14. Sponsored by: or Family Member

Return this form with check made payable to the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon or ARCEC for new or renewal membership. Annual Dues \$18.00 for Individual, \$30.00 for family. New members add \$5.00 per member. Include your call on Check. Mail to
Membership Chairperson
A.R.C.E.C, P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

New () or Renewal ()	WAMO Number
Certificate Issued	Dues from _____ To _____
Paid Cash ()	Check No.
Check ()	Date Paid:

Computer Roster Available

Want the roster sent to you via e-mail? Send an e-mail to Ann Rios KC6TBG, and she will send you the database back as an attachment. She uses Excel, but may be able to convert to various formats if asked. Send your request to 619-593-9445 or KC6TBG@cox.net

FUN PAGE

Birthday

April 1	KD6QB	Bill	Callier
April 2	KE6PMS	Louis	Dunn
April 3	KF6QXO	Irene	Lewis Haag
April 4	KF6NOG	Roy	Stark, Jr.
April 5	KF6FBL	Carol	Hart
April 7	KI6KTZ	Jane	Roome
April 10	NY6J	Bob	Helt
April 15	N6YBK	Galen	Kelm
April 18	KI6HSA	Martin	Muschinske
April 20	WA6VEY	Bob	Dalzell
April 21	KI6DOJ	Will	Tisch
April 23	WA6BJM	Fred	Moffett
April 24	KG6ZJF	George	Snell
April 25	KR6BL	Chris	Laporte
April 26		Beth	Lang
April 29	WB6TPJ	Joe	Yelkin

Brain Thinkers

2=N. in a D. 2 Nickels in a Dime.

36= I. on a Y. S. 36 Inches on a Yard Stick

755= H. runs H. by H. A.

755 Home runs Hit by Hank Aaron

----- This Months -----

3=L. on a T.

5=P. in a N.

52= C. in a D.

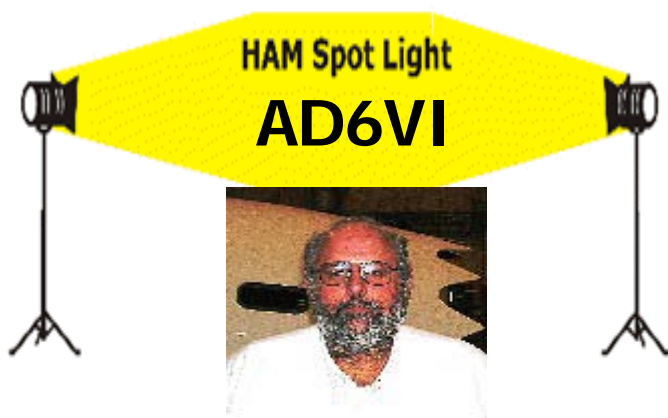
Word Search

C U R R E N T V G Q S V Q W M L
W A K L U Q S F W Z R E T L I F
E N P O W F R Q M F G S U K X M
V A Q A L E W G K W F H R E Y E K
L L W D C Z L K V F V H G V R Q
A Y U I I I N D U C T O R E W E
T Z E N R E T W G S Q C W K L U
S E M G C W S A U L Z I E F Q V
Y R F M U U V Z N H W L G U M K
R W E F I K E D O C S L Q S E V
C Q C Q T L Q Z G E E A H L G F
Q L G K S E G E M U M T U V A E
E M Q Z V F S L L F V O L Z T L
D F K G M U G F Z E E R M Q L S
O Z U M Q V Z U F N H W G V O Z
I L Z V M K L F P O S I T I V E
D I P M E T E R K T V Z U K L W

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANALYZER | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUCTOR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CAPACITANCE | <input type="checkbox"/> KEYS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CIRCUIT | <input type="checkbox"/> LOADING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CODE | <input type="checkbox"/> MIXER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CQCQ | <input type="checkbox"/> OSCILLATOR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CRYSTAL | <input type="checkbox"/> OFFSET |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CURRENT | <input type="checkbox"/> POSITIVE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DIODE | <input type="checkbox"/> RST |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DIPMETER | <input type="checkbox"/> TONE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FILTER | <input type="checkbox"/> VOLTAGE |

Last Months Word Search

A N T E N N A P O Z X U P T S J
W U N W K J S W K W J W X Q W F
H Z G O M P U T E R O H E T U X
K S A T Z T K H O A U N T W S K
T Q E O J W O Q T D Z O J Q Z E
P O L K T G S E D C T A L S
G W E E A W T F O S T T H P G
J X F T O Z T J P H W C J O T E
K E P U J O W E R G S E O G U O
G P J T H Z P J W E Z N W T E S
R E T Q E K S Q U Q U M K P K U
O K S F O T R A L U D O M U T W
Q S W F X E X G X E G C J S G S
H U O H P S T F P H O U O K J Q
Z X T N A R S A I D T X F A E X
O F U J X Q Q K F T G P T G X F
P J Z Q G K J O Z I T T Y Q L S



This month the spotlight shines on Steve Early AD6VI, WAMO #1116, who was recently elected ARRL Section Manager for ARRL San Diego Section. Steve has been a member of the ARCEC off and on since June, 1993, when he earned his Tech License under Charles Roy. Steve has participated in ARES, Red Cross, Field Day, Red Flag Patrol, Licensing Classes, GOTA Seminars, and the San Diego County Amateur Radio Council (SANDARC) as well as many other amateur radio related activities. Steve is presently President of PARC, Secretary to TASMA, a member of the Red Cross RTT (Comms) Committee, a husband and father of three and recently resigned as Education Chairman of SANDARC due to his new position as Section Manager. (...does anyone else have something for Steve to do?)

Steve, originally born and raised in La Mesa, California, continues to live in La Mesa, with his wife, Dee, and three children: Stephanie (18), KI6DKP, Sarah (16), KI6DKL, and Ben, 13, KI6GEH. His entire family is involved in amateur radio through PARC and Red Cross. Steve earned a Bachelor Degree at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly), in San Luis Obispo, CA, and works as a Senior Manufacturing Engineer for Goodrich Aerostructures Group (formerly Rohr Aircraft), where he is responsible for writing all Thrust Reverser Field Modification Instructions for the Boeing 787 Dream Liner. Currently he is working to incorporate the latest Engineering upgrades for the 787 Test Flight Units.

Steve's favorite mode of communication is 2 meter FM, and he can also be heard on 20, 40 and 80 meters for a nationwide service net. His favorite part of amateur radio is helping others to get on the air, and he is looking forward to seeing his most recent students participate in this years Field Day.

While serving the public through the Red Cross Communications team has been very rewarding, Steve's most memorable experience in amateur

radio was last years Field Day. It was memorable because of the public setting and Amateur Radio Operator participation. PARC, which has taken its operating category of 5A or 5F, nationally, on a regular basis, made a conscious decision to involve the public by operating from public places.

Last year, PARC had 117 participants sign the log and caused a "Sig-Alert" on SR-78, in San Marcos, as the driving public slowed down to see what was happening. Several stopped in, out of curiosity.

For this, Steve thanks the long and hard earned efforts of the many HAMS, and in particular, Dennis Baca, KD6TUJ / Oceanside, an individual that makes it all happen through teamwork. Dennis is one of those people (found in many clubs) that works quietly and diligently behind the scenes, so that the rest of us may have an enjoyable time in the Amateur Radio Service. When Dennis sees a problem, he steps up to fix it, without being asked, without fan fare and without politics. The reward he seeks is found in the apparent enjoyment of others.

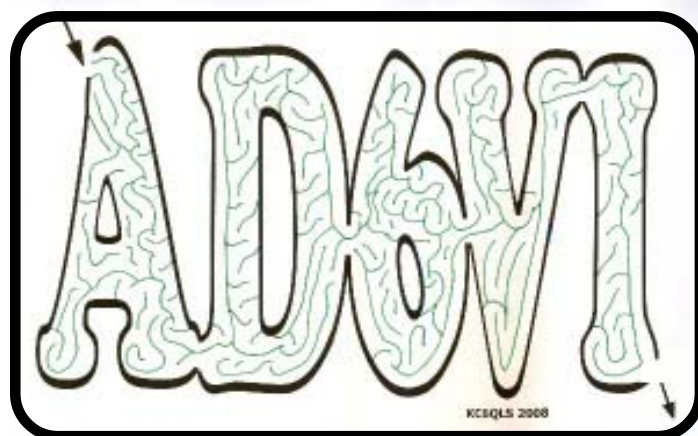
Steve's favorite saying and words of wisdom are: "True happiness is found in service to others", and he encourages amateur radio operators to serve each other and the community.

No longer just a voice on the radio, the spotlight shines on AD6VI.

73,

Tassy KI6FIH

MAZE



**The Editor's
Corner
KC6QLS Paul**



Editor's Corner

Thank you to the Counterpoise Staff and Writers for your time and dedication to the newsletter. The monthly deadline for entries is the 2nd Friday after the meeting and all ARCEC members are asked to submit amateur radio related articles, photos, and for sale/wanted items by this date so that the newsletter can be compiled, printed and mailed in a timely fashion. Of course, early submissions are always appreciated.

Paul, KC6QLS

Public Relations

The 2008 San Diego County Fair (Del Mar) is coming up and will run from Saturday, June 14, 2008 through Sunday, July 6, 2008. The fair will be closed on Monday, June 16, 2008 and Monday June 23, 2008, but will be open on Monday, June 30, 2008 and will feature "Weird Al Yankovic" on this day.

The ARCEC and Girl Scout Troop 6326 Kids Best Booth date is June 21, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. for set up, 10:00 - 3:00 p.m. for the booth, and clean up to be completed by 4:00 p.m. We will be assembling the wooden key kits the kids will put together, hook up and send their name using Morse Code with at our April meeting. The goal and purpose of our booth is to introduce kids to amateur radio and show how it can be used in emergency situations. Please attend as we need your help to assemble 1000 kits. As we assemble the kits, our new Section Manager, Steve Early AD6VI, will be present for an informal discussion entitled: "Needs and Opportunities in the Amateur Radio Community".

Also, the ARCEC SANDARC days at the fair are Saturday, June 14, 2008 and Sunday, June 15, 2008, and we are looking for volunteers to cover 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. shifts at our new booth location in the
*** Contined on page 15

Volunteers Needed

Up Coming Events

San Diego County Fair "ARCEC Booth"

Please Sign up at the next meeting

E-Mail

Address for the Counterpoise. Please submit all *Counterpoise* Mail to:

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net

Prize Table Needs Help

Thank you for your contributions to the Prize Table! We still need your Support and Help or it may just end up a thing of the past. Please contact: Floyd Lang AF6BC at 303-6711.

Things to keep in mind

Get on the El Cajon ARC Reflector

To sign up visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcajonarc/>

You will get the latest news about The Club and things going on in the Ham world.

Quote of the Month

"Such truth as opposeth no man's profit nor pleasure is to all men welcome."

- Ibod.

For Amateur Radio Public Relations San Diego
Please visit
www.arprsd.org

JOKE

"I heard you missed school yesterday."
"Not a bit."

Lisie KI6EEK

Crest Radio Museum

Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ

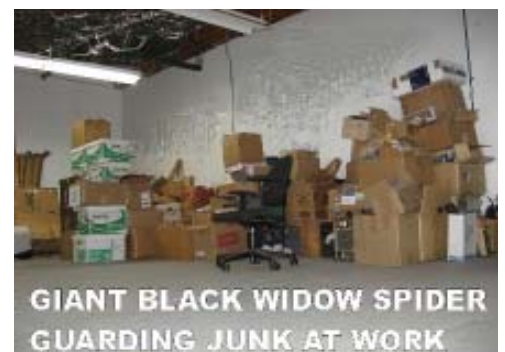


PARTS IS PARTS

What do you have in YOUR Junk Box? I am sure, if you have been a Ham for some time, there are plenty of resistors, caps, coils, semiconductors/ICs, tubes, and lots of pieces of rigs that you scavenged parts off of to fix another. That's just the way Ham's are; they collect junk much like a Squirrel picks up bits of yarn and shiny things to feather his nest. But some folks go WAY overboard, with myself being a shining example. I have this garage, which was filled up the day I moved into Crest with all the junk I brought from Flinn Springs. Boxes and boxes, incredible amounts of JUNK! It completely filled the 2 car garage, all the rafters and has remained undisturbed ever since. Consequently, I have no idea what is there, and with a Legion of Black Widow spiders and rabid Rats guarding it vehemently, I won't be checking any time soon. The wife says "GET RID OF IT!!!" But that is not likely while I am still kicking. Meanwhile, I collected even More along the way and filled up every available niche and cranny inside the house that didn't have a radio already in its spot; upstairs, downstairs, all the closets and shelves. More and more boxes of parts, drug home from Auctions or the Swapmeet. Sometimes, some nice Hams would call me up and tell me to "COME AND GET IT!" I got it alright! I got it all! But then there was the occasion where this really nice Ham in Chula Vista had a whole garage full of junk, much like mine is, only much neater. He also had some priceless boat anchors I salivated over, and when he asked if I wanted them, the only answer I was capable of giving was "SURE!!!!!!!" However, the hitch was that if I took ANY of it, I had to take it ALL!! That meant several trips back and forth in a completely full Town car. You would be astonished how much you can cram in a Lincoln! Of course, there was not a chance I would bring this home, with KB6RCT already mad and fit to be tied, so I brought it here to work; box after box. Hundreds of boxes!!! Transformers, tubes, coils, just the kind of thing I LOVE. Will I use ANY of it? Not likely, but I

sure GOT IT! So one day, KB6RCT decided she was mad about all the old junk computers and monitors I had in the garage, and she found they were recycling them at work. So I was ordered to move them out of the garage and into the driveway for staging to take to her work. Dozens of IBM XT's, 286s, 386s and such were piled up in the driveway. And it was no surprise that the garage didn't look a bit emptier! It was STILL packed floor to ceiling, wall to wall. She was happy at least we would get rid of a LITTLE of it, but as luck might have it, the planned recycling fell through and there they still sit, now all full of Black Widow spiders. NO KIDDING! I stomp on several a day here. There was this computer recycling event down at the stadium a few weeks back, and she wanted me to take them there. NOT A CHANCE!! I don't want any black widows released into the interior of the Car, and crawling on me as I drive. I can't think of a better way to pile up the car than for that to happen at 80 MPH!!! So I really need a truck to move these to the next event. Meanwhile, the parts still keep coming in, most from Ebay and swapmeets. I am especially fond of Heathkit parts, and have enough to build several more HW-101s, SB-101s and such. Just got in some transformers and coils today for a SB-301. Don't know why I needed them, but somehow I did. Just as I typed, some Rat Bastard outbid me on some Heathkit Crystals, so I had to stop typing, go outbid the skunk and then back to type. Parts is Parts, and what will become of all these when I bite the dust? But, OH, the treasures hidden in the boxes. DON'T THROW THEM OUT!!!! Like mint Collins crystal filters, somewhere. More and more incredibly valuable parts, just like the ones I see on Ebay bid up to the hundreds!! So, whoever talks these out of my wife is going to be RICH beyond imagination!!! You just have to watch out for the Black Widows standing guard!

—
Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ
Curator
Crest Radio
Museum



Down Below in El Cajon Life Below 50 MHz

John Graf, WA6L



Bugging your friends with Rotten Code

I hope you don't mind if I do something a little different this month. I would like to write about a personal experience of mine. It is a story about my interest in semi-automatic CW keys and in particular, the Vibroplex "Bug." In today's world of electronics, you may not be familiar with the semi-automatic bug. It has an interesting history.

Back in the early days of telegraphy, operators used a straight key to send Morse code. Many of them developed a disease that was called "glass arm." Today we know that disease as carpal tunnel syndrome. So there was a real need for an easier and better way to send code.

In 1904, Horace G. Martin filed a patent for sending device that used a weighted, vibrating arm to send code. A few years later he and a partner started a company to sell these new semi-automatic keying devices. Thus began the Vibroplex Company.

The Vibroplex keyer was a huge success. They were used in telegraph offices, aboard ships, on the railroads, and by the military through two world wars. It was common for each telegrapher to have his or her (there were many "hers" back then) own keyer. They would carry it with them to the job in a padded case, connect it to the wire or the radio, and start sending fast and accurate code.

Over 100 years later, the Vibroplex Company is still in business and is still producing the same device; now called a "bug" by Amateur Radio Operators. If you look at a bug from 1918 and a bug from 2008, they are essentially the same. There have been other manufacturers and many variations on the basic design, but the original bug lives on.

WHY A BUG?

I have always had a fascination with the bug. Part of it is the rich history of Vibroplex. It is an interesting and romantic part of our Ham Radio culture. And they are beautiful in their own way; much like a piece of sculpture. Whether it is a black-lacquered base model from 1922 or a chrome model of today, they are a gorgeous and interesting item to have in your shack.

And have you ever heard someone who REALLY knows how to use a bug send CW? I have heard it called music, and that is not just hyperbole. There are subtle variations from one bug user to another that make listening to their code fun and interesting. And at the risk of annoying straight-key users, you can actually send fast code with a bug, which is almost impossible to do well with a straight key.

BUY-A-BUG

I decided that I was going to buy a new bug. There are many used ones around, ranging from collectibles to recent models. But I wanted to make sure that everything worked right. Many Hams know how to fix and maintain a bug — I did not.

So I called the Vibroplex Company, which is now owned by a Ham (W4OA). Come to find out, there is a 4-6 week backlog on ordering a new bug! I hope that is a sign that CW is alive and well, and a sign that Vibroplex will be in business for another 100 years. At any rate, I ended up calling around the various Ham stores. I finally found what I wanted at AES in Las Vegas. It arrived in the mail two days later.

ADJUST-A BUG

When you pull your new Vibroplex out of the box, you are faced with a half-dozen adjustments. Not only do you have to figure out where to set each of these six knurl-nuts, but they all interact with each other. Change one, and you will probably have to change several others.

A quick Google search found numerous web pages and documents with instructions on how to adjust your semi-automatic key. Some of the procedures relied on automotive-type feeler-gauges. Others

Down Below *Continued*

have you hooking up analog ohmmeters to test dot spacing. I quickly discovered that even if you know how to adjust your bug, you still don't know how to adjust your bug!

I decided to go with the feeler-gauge method. With some trial-and-error and an hour's work, I was ready to get on the air.

USE-A-BUG

My first week with the bug produced some truly rotten code. I practiced and practiced, but my CW was probably causing Hiram Percy Maxim to roll over in his grave. The dots were "mushy" and the first dot that I sent sounded like half-a-dot. I had a couple of QSOs with very patient Hams, but I was quickly becoming discouraged. Was it time to put the bug on a shelf (it's too pretty to sell) and go back to the electronic keyer?

In desperation, I went back to the adjustments. This time, I found a set of instructions that were based on an old Army training manual. Instead of a feeler gage, I used the "thickness of 10 pages of this manual" method. What I actually did was to cut out a thick piece of cardboard and use that as the adjustment tool. In addition, these antiquated instructions told me what to look for in my dot sending. With a little bit of fiddling and my trusty piece of cardboard, I had the bug readjusted. And it looked nothing like the adjustment I had before.

Wow — what a difference! I can now actually send CW with the bug and not be totally embarrassed. More practice is definitely in my future, but for now I feel comfortable enough to practice on the air.

One other item bears mentioning. When the Vibroplex was designed in 1904, it was developed for people who sent Morse code for a living. Often, they were paid by the word. So the bug was designed to send FAST code. Out of the box, the slowest it will send is about 20 wpm. An experienced bug user can send 40 wpm or faster.

Luckily, the Vibroplex Company has adapted to the need for slower code. They sell an accessory for the Vibroplex called a "Vari-speed" which replaces the standard speed-adjustment weight on the bug. It not only allows you to slow your speed down to as low as 10 wpm, but it also allows for rapid adjustment of your keying speed. You can go from 10 to 30 wpm and back in just a few seconds. It is worth every penny!

CONCLUSION

Sending CW with a Vibroplex bug is a wonderful experience. You feel this very emotional connection with the history of Ham radio and with the many thousands of telegraphers who have come before you.

Additionally, it is a beautiful and elegant device. Watching the reed vibrate and listening to the damper click and clack, you realize that this was a design that will last another 100 years — as long as there are people like you and me who love Morse code.



Amateur Radio At Large

From Rich N6NKJ



Hello All,

By now I am sure that you have heard of the passing of Norm Albright, WB6OKO. If you did not know who Norm was, he was the son of London and Sybil Albright. Sybil was the founder of SANDARC. She and her husband were, for many years, a very large part of the amateur radio scene in San Diego and did many things to showcase amateur radio to the public. We send our prayers and best wishes to his family.

On Tuesday, March 18th, Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ, delivered the Kenwood TS-450S HF radio to my home. Folks, this is a complete Kenwood system which included the following: Kenwood power supply, speaker, microphone, phone patch, and 9600 baud modem. It included all of the wires and manuals as well. It looks just like it was bought brand new. I want to thank the Board of Directors of A.R.E.S. for this generous donation to CAL FIRE. It will be used.

Also, today, March 26th, Danny Briggs, KD6OKR, donated a MFJ-993 automatic tuner for Cal fire just in case we need an extra one. Thanks Danny.

I also want to once again thank Al Rich, W6WYN, for donating the antennas for our club's prize table. Thanks Al.

On May 10th, our friends of the S.U.R.F. Runners club will be having a race in our backcountry. If you can help with communications, please contact Ellen Utschig, N6UWW, or Jim Edgerton, W6SST, and let them know you are available. If it were not for this group's kind donation, CAL FIRE would not have the new radio equipment, so let's support them.

At our upcoming club meeting, we will be putting together the wooden keys for the San Diego County Fair. These keys will be part of the "ARCEC Kid's Best booth day" at the fair. When we did this at the El Cajon Fire Department's open

house last year, it was a very big hit. So come to the meeting and let's have some FUN!

I would like to remind everyone to please let Steve KO4QT, know your ideas on what kind of programs you would like to have at the meetings so that he can plan accordingly.

Well, that's it for now, but as always, let us not forget those who keep our country free; it's the brave men and women who are right now in harms way. And when you see one in their uniforms, shake their hand and thank them for their service to our great country.

73's and 88's.
Rich, N6NKJ

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Membership Report

Ann KC6TBG



Welcome New Members



Gary Strange WAMO 1751
Associate Member



Mike McClure WAMO 1752 KI6MUH

At the meeting on March 13, 2008, the General Membership voted to return the ARCEC Membership Dues due date back to the way it was originally set up when the club was founded. This means that everyone's dues will now be due on December 31st and will pay dues for the following year. There will actually be no change for the majority of our club members because their dues are already due on December 31st of each year. However, for those of you who have dues due between now and December 31st of this year, your dues will be prorated so that you pay through December 31st of this year, and then next years dues will be due on December 31st. During this transition period, we will not be accepting payment for dues for 2009, but only accepting dues due through December 31, 2008. There has been a suggestion regarding the possibility of an Early Bird Prize at the Christmas Party for those who pay their 2009 dues by a specific date and more information will be forthcoming on this issue. For those of you who have already paid your dues in January, February or March of 2008, which would pay you through January, February or March of 2009, your 2009 dues will be

prorated accordingly and will actually be due on December 31, 2008 so that you will then pay for the remaining months of 2009 at the same time all of the other members pay their 2009 membership dues. This way, all club membership dues will be current for the year 2009 on December 31, 2008. For new members who join during the year, the dues for the year they join will be prorated through December 31st of the year they join, and the next years dues will be due on December 31st of the year they join.

Lastly, an idea has come up regarding the possibility of club members sponsoring another individual to join the ARCEC by giving a donation in that individual's name specifically for payment of that individual's dues. This is a great idea and certainly an opportunity for the Elmers out there. However, please note that it will be the responsibility of the sponsoring individual to do the following:

1. Contact the individual, or the parents of the individual if the individual is a minor, that you wish to sponsor as you would be the "Sponsoring Elmer" to get permission from the individual, and/or from the parents of the individual if the individual is a minor, to join our organization and for the individual and/or minor's information to be included on our roster.
2. Have the individual, or the parents of the individual if the individual is a minor, complete the application and mail it to you. You would then forward their completed application and your check in the amount of the dues due for the month you mail the check to the ARCEC P.O. Box. If you would prefer to remain anonymous, please be sure you make a note of this on the application form so that your name will not be listed as the "Sponsoring Elmer".
3. Please be sure to advise the parents of any minors you may sponsor that all club members' information is included on our club roster and available to all club members. However, if they wish to not have their information published, they can indicate that on the application form where indicated and then the only information which would appear on the club roster would be their name, call sign and WAMO number.

Ann, KC6TBG
Membership Chair

ARCEC Meeting Photos



**Ed AI6O & Dan N6ERD
Showing how PSK can be used on FM**



PSK 31 or PSK 62? "Can you type?"



**PSK on the Laptop "see the signal on
the Water Fall".**



Steve giving his Report



The Prize Table!!!!

April meeting Minutes Continued

Most are members of the six shooters club - stated willingness to join SANDARC. N6OPH will be addressing the next six shooters meeting to explain what SANDARC does and expects of clubs. Also Joe KM6EC, was elected Treasurer

SANDARC needs certified volunteer examiners on a temporary basis for the North Park testing site.

ATTENDANCE: Ann Rios reported that there were 40 members in attendance, 6 visitors.

Rich, N6NKJ said there will be 2 dedication ceremonies for the new equipment at Cal Fire, one private and another one for everyone involved in Cal Fire Red Flag Patrol. Red Flag Patrol started originally in San Diego and then spread statewide. Dates are yet to be determined.

Tonight ARES donated an HF station to Cal Fire - it was moved that the club buy a G5RV antenna for Cal Fire using our existing funds for Cal Fire, and was voted to make the purchase.

Prize Table had mobile antennas, some J-poles, a 160M mobile antenna, CB radio, etc...

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 10th.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Severance, N6ERD
Secretary
Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon



J. P. TURNER & COMPANY, L.L.C.

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PR Report Continued

In Field. Sign up sheets will be available at the meeting. Please sign up as soon as possible at the meeting or email me directly at kc6qls@cox.net to sign up. As soon as clubs and/or individuals sign up, the SANDARC website calendar will be updated to reflect the remaining dates and times available to volunteer. Please check the SANDARC calendar directly at www.sandarc.org to obtain the latest dates available.

SANDARC needs volunteers to cover the booth for the entire 21 days that the fair is open. While the clubs usually cover certain days, there are many days and shifts to cover and your help is needed. If the only date you are available falls on another club's usual date, please sign up anyway and don't worry as we will all work together to accommodate all volunteers. Again, any individual wishing to volunteer on any day for any shift is welcome, and we will all work together to make this booth a success.

The SANDARC Booth is each club's opportunity to share amateur radio with all age levels in the San Diego Community. Each club is encouraged to wear their club shirts, hats and jackets, to bring exhibits, to do demonstrations, and to talk about their specific club and the activities, education, and events that their club offers. Each club has the opportunity to highlight their specialty area such as DX, Field Day Expertise, Emergency Service aspects, etc., as well as to promote amateur radio in general.

The SANDARC fair booth provides amateur radio operators with an opportunity to share amateur radio and what we do with the public with the goals of introducing people to amateur radio, showing them how it can be used in emergency situations, and sparking an interest in one of the many areas of amateur radio. Please join us at the fair and volunteer your time to share amateur radio with our community.

73,
Paul Rios, KC6QLS

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Issue Date 4/2008

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Is your membership ready to expire?

Take a look on your mailing label. Is the expiration date in 2007? Does it say EXPIRED? That means it's time to mail in your yearly dues. Please take time to fill out the membership application in this newsletter, and mail it in, or bring it to the next meeting.

For Ham Radio Classes

Please Contact:
Mike Maston
N6OPH
(619) 296-9067

Please Visit Our Website at
www.WA6BGS.org

VEC Testing Sites

1 st Saturday:	El Cajon 10:00 am First Lutheran Church of EC 867 South Lincoln Ave.
2 nd Saturday:	Carlsbad 9:30 am Carlsbad Safety Center Orion Way Carlsbad
3 rd Saturday:	North Park 10:00 am North Park Recreation Center 4044 Idaho Street San Diego
4 th Saturday:	Chula Vista 8:30 am Fire Station #7 1640 Santa Venetia Chula Vista
5 th or last Saturday:	Escondido 9:00 am LDS Church 1917 East Washington St.

To make advance reservations or to find out more info from the site captain, please call 465-EXAM (3926)

